

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims:

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) An implantable device to be used in the human and/or animal body for occluding or partially occluding defect openings, hollow spaces~~[,]~~ or organ tracts,~~etc.~~ or for creating a defined connecting opening between two walls, organs~~[,]~~ and hollow spaces,~~etc.~~ in a body, with comprising a support structure having a primary shape which has a ~~great~~ first length-to-width ratio along an axis in a first operating state (~~primary shape~~) ~~while~~ and having a secondary shape having a ~~smaller~~ second length-to-width ratio along said axis in a second operating state (~~secondary shape~~) wherein said first length-to-width ratio is greater than said second length-to-width ratio, ~~and~~ the support structure having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the support structure being formed from a single wire-like element, having two ends, by intercoiling and/or intertwining and/or interweaving in the manner of a tissue and/or scrim and/or net structure, wherein characterized in that the proximal portion and/or distal portion in the secondary shape is substantially flat in a disk shape or ring shape or at least bent round in the edge area or bent back toward the other portion or bent outward from an intermediate portion connecting the distal and proximal portions, so that a delimited inner space is formed.

41. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the proximal portion and the distal portion of the support structure in the secondary shape are placed flat and partially on top of one another so that an occlusion or partial occlusion of openings delimited laterally by said two walls, especially in the area of valve flaps, is permitted in the human or animal body.

42. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least a partial area of the implantable device is designed folded in or is able to be folded in.

43. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~, in the secondary shape of the support structure, a central through-opening remains in the implantable device for partial occlusion of an opening.

44. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a through-opening provided inside the implantable device is arranged eccentrically therein.

45. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the proximal portion and the distal portion are of disk-shaped configuration with an intermediate portion arranged between them, the

intermediate portion having a reduced diameter compared to the proximal portion and/or distal portion, and the through-opening provided inside the implantable device being arranged eccentrically therein.

46. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the dimensions and shape of the implantable device, of a through-opening inside the implantable device and/or of the edge of the implantable device are selected or adjusted specifically to the area of application within said body.

47. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ at least one portion of the support structure in the primary and/or secondary shape is asymmetrically and/or irregularly configured.

48. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 47, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the ~~material~~ concentration and/or the ~~material~~ thickness of said wire-like element of ~~inside~~ the support structure is different from portion to portion.

49. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 48, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ partial areas of the support structure are formed from a ~~material~~ wire-like element having ~~of different diameter~~ diameters, or wherein partially different diameters of the ~~material~~ wire-like element of the support

structure are formed by provision of several wires.

50. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the amount of ~~material~~ wire-like element in the edge area of
the implantable device is adapted to the desired mechanical properties, in
particular a concentration of ~~material~~ wire-like element being provided in the
edge area of the device for partial stiffening.

51. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the wire-like element includes two ends and the two ends of
the wire-like element are arranged on one of ~~the~~ said distal or proximate ends of
the support structure or are integrated into the surface of the support structure.

52. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the end of the proximal portion is open or partially closed or
completely closed, in particular by provision of a plate element.

53. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the end of the distal portion and/or proximal portion has one
or more hoops or loops which are interlocked and/or arranged alongside one
another and/or interlaced, in particular with a substantially uniform edge being
formed.

54. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the support structure is designed as a two-part or multi-part
unit connected to one another to form one part and formed from a wire-like
element.

55. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 54, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the individual parts of the two-part or multi-part unit of the
support structure are designed uniformly, corresponding to one another or
differing from one another.

56. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the support structure of the implantable device in the primary
~~shape or basic coil shape~~ is configured like a stent.

57. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim ~~40-51~~ wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the ends of the wire-like element are connected or can be
suitably connected to one another, in particular by attachment of a further
element, by twisting, adhesive bonding, welding, soldering, or another connection
method.

58. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ one or more membranes or membrane-like or membrane-
forming structures are incorporated into the support structure or applied to it.

59. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the membrane-forming structure is formed by ~~inweaving~~ interweaving of at least one filament, ~~in particular a~~ the filament made of a flexible weavable material, ~~in particular~~ a plastic, a renewable raw material or metal, ~~in particular~~ or one or more Dacron filaments and/or carbon fibers.

60. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the membrane-forming structure is made of a material with a cross section differing from that of the wire-like element or ~~has~~ comprises a braid, scrim or weave with filaments of different diameter.

61. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the membrane-like structure is formed by dipping the support structure into a film-forming material, ~~in particular of~~ a natural or synthetic polymer formed from one or more monomers^[,] ~~in particular~~ by polyaddition, polymerization or polycondensation, ~~in particular a polycarbonate, polyester, polyamide, polyolefin or polyurethane.~~

62. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the membrane-like structure or membrane is formed from a weave, scrim or other textile and is provided in said ~~the~~ edge area with protruding arms for threading and/or securing on the support structure, ~~in particular~~ by

sewing, adhesive bonding, welding, crimping, or another securing method.

63. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 58, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the ~~membrane(s)~~ membrane and membrane-like or
membrane-forming ~~structure(s)~~ structure is ~~are~~ arranged proximally, distally or
substantially centrally in the support structure.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the ~~material~~ wire-like element of the support structure is
chemically and/or mechanically treated in at least a partial area, ~~in particular~~ by
~~etched, electropolished, microground or otherwise treated~~ etching,
electropolishing, microgrinding or otherwise.

66. (Currently Amended) The implantable device as claimed in claim 40, wherein
~~characterized in that~~ the wire-like element of the implantable device is made of a
biocompatible material, ~~in particular~~ such as a metal or a metal alloy, ~~in particular~~
a high-grade steel, or a plastic, ~~for example~~ such as polycarbonate, ~~in particular~~ or
a shape-memory material such as nitinol.

67. (Currently Amended) A positioning system, ~~especially~~ for an implantable device
as claimed in claim 40, ~~with~~ comprising an advancing element, a guide wire

and/or inner mandrel and at least one retaining wire, the guide wire and the at least one retaining wire being used for cooperating with a said proximal end of the implantable device, and the implantable device being transformable from a primary shape into a secondary shape and vice versa by moving the retaining wire and the guide wire relative to the advancing element.

68. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ said retaining wire ~~or retaining wires~~ is ~~/are~~ threaded or can be threaded through one or more loops or hoops at the end of the proximal portion of the implantable device and are connected or can be connected to the guide wire and/or inner mandrel.

69. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a chain of retaining wire loops is formed which is threaded or can be threaded through one or more loops or hoops at the end of the proximal portion and/or distal portion of the support structure.

70. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 67, wherein ~~characterized in that a~~ said guide wire and an extraction wire are provided for extracting the implantable device from the implantation site in ~~the~~ a human or animal body, the extraction wire being able to be made into a loop or hoop and able to be threaded through at least one hoop or loop at one end of said proximal or distal portions of the support structure.

71. (Currently Amended) A positioning system, ~~especially~~ for an implantable device as claimed in claim 40, with comprising an advancing element, with an auxiliary structure having a primary shape having a great first length-to-width ratio along an axis in a first operating state (~~primary shape~~) ~~while~~ and having a ~~smaller~~ secondary shape having a second length-to-width ratio along said axis in a second operating state (~~secondary shape~~) for aiding the deployment of the proximal portion of the support structure of the implantable device, and with at least one connection device for connecting the proximal end of the implantable device and the distal end of the auxiliary structure, wherein said first length-to-width ratio is greater than said second length-to-width ratio.

72. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 71, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the connection device has at least one retaining wire, ~~in particular three retaining wires.~~

73. (Currently Amended) The positioning system as claimed in claim 72, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one retaining wire is threaded or can be threaded through one or more loops or hoops of said intercoiled support structure at said ~~the end of the proximal end of the implantable device and~~ and/or of the said distal end of the auxiliary structure.

74. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an implantable device as claimed in claim

40, characterized by the following steps:

- coiling a support structure basic coil shape from a wire-like element by intercoiling and/or intertwining and/or interweaving in the manner of a tissue and/or scrim and/or net,
- annealing the support structure basic coil shape in order to stabilize the shape,
- forming the support structure from the basic coil shape into a desired secondary shape, and
- annealing the support structure secondary shape in order to stabilize and imprint the shape.

75. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 74, characterized in that the first coiling step is done by hand.